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# STUDIES

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## The Utilization of North Carolina General Hospitals: A Geographic Analysis

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### Abstract

The variation in general hospital utilization rates among the counties in North Carolina is depicted and analyzed. The principal statistical methods used are multiple regression and correlation analysis. It was found that the number of short-term general hospital beds per 1,000 population is the best predictor of county hospital utilization rates. The higher the beds per population in a county, the higher is the utilization of hospitals by residents of the county. Also, high hospital utilization is associated with a low number of physicians per 1,000 population. It is hoped that the results of the analysis will be useful to health planners and to those involved in the delivery of health care in a county. This article should also serve as a brief review of the use of multiple regression and correlation analysis in health care studies.

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